IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 40-41, 53-63 and 71.

Please amend claims 29-32, 35 and 37 as follows:

29. (Twice Amended) An isolated transgenic plant cell comprising a foreign nucleic acid molecule stably integrated into the genome, wherein the nucleic acid molecule is a nucleic acid molecule encoding a polypeptide having the enzymatic activity of an RNA-directed RNA polymerase (RdRP) or encoding an enzymatically active fragment thereof, selected from the group consisting of:

(1) a nucleic acid molecule coding for a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2;

(2) a nucleic acid molecule comprising the coding region of the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1;

(3) a nucleic acid molecule that specifically hybridizes to a complementary strand of the nucleic acid molecule as defined in (1) or (2) in 0.25 M $NaHPO_4$ pH 7.2; 0.25 M NaCl, 7% SDS, 1 mM EDTA and 5-20% (w/v) polyethylene glycol ($M_r$ 6-7.5x$10^3$) at 42° C for 4-24 hours; and

(4) a nucleic acid molecule that has a sequence identity of at least 80% to the nucleic acid molecule of (1) or (2);

wherein said nucleic acid molecule is linked to regulatory elements allowing transcription, expression, or transcription and expression of said nucleic acid molecule in plant cells.

30. (Twice Amended) A transgenic plant comprising the plant cell of any one of claims 29 or 64-70.

31. (Twice Amended) An isolated transgenic plant cell which contains stably integrated into the genome a foreign nucleic acid molecule selected from the group consisting of:

(1) a nucleic acid molecule coding for a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2;

(2) a nucleic acid molecule comprising the coding region of the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1;

(3) a nucleic acid molecule that specifically hybridizes to a complementary strand of the nucleic acid molecule as defined in (1) or (2) in 0.25 M $NaHPO_4$ pH 7.2; 0.25 M NaCl, 7% SDS, 1 mM EDTA and 5-20% (w/v) polyethylene glycol ($M_r$ 6-7.5x$10^3$) at 42° C for 4-24 hours; and

(4) a nucleic acid molecule that has a sequence identity of at least 80% to the nucleic acid molecule of (1) or (2);

wherein said nucleic acid molecule is linked to regulatory elements allowing transcription, expression, or transcription and expression of said nucleic acid molecule in plant cells; and

wherein the presence, transcription, expression, or transcription and expression of the nucleic acid molecule leads to reduction of the synthesis of a polypeptide having RNA-directed RNA polymerase (RdRP) activity in the cell.

E2 32. (Amended) The transgenic plant cell of claim 31, wherein the reduction is achieved by an antisense or co-suppression effect.

E3 35. (Twice Amended) A leaf, stem, fruit, seed, or root of a plant, wherein said leaf, stem, fruit, seed, or root comprises the plant cell according to any one of claims 29, 31 or 32.

E4 37. (Twice Amended) Propagation material of a plant, wherein said propagation material comprises the plant cell according to any one of claims 29, 31 or 32.

Please add claims 72-74:

E5 72. (Added) An isolated transgenic plant cell comprising a foreign nucleic acid molecule stably integrated into the genome, wherein the nucleic acid molecule is a nucleic acid molecule coding for an RNA molecule that is capable of serving as a template for RNA-directed RNA synthesis, wherein said template nucleic acid molecule is linked to regulatory elements allowing transcription of said template nucleic acid molecule in plant cells.

73. (Added) The isolated transgenic plant cell according to claim 31, wherein said foreign nucleic acid molecule has a sequence identity of at least 90% to (1) a nucleic acid molecule coding for a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2; or (2) a nucleic acid molecule comprising the coding region of the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1.

74. (Added) The isolated transgenic plant cell according to claim 73, wherein said foreign nucleic acid molecule is (1) a nucleic acid molecule coding for a